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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN
FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

Missoula, Montana

No. 37

March 13, 1945

Christmas Tree Production in Western Montana in 1944 1/

Christmas tree production in western Montana in 1944 amounted to 2,755,750 trees, 11.2 percent below the record production of 3,102,480 trees in 1943. Production exceeded 3,000,000 trees in 1941, but was less than 2,500,000 in 1942 and 1940 and less than 2,000,000 in earlier years.

Flathead County led in production with 1,313,900 trees, of which 190,000 were shipped by rail from Polson in Lake County. Lincoln County was a close second with 1,141,700 trees; all other counties produced less than 100,000 each.

Practically all of the trees shipped from the State were Douglas-fir. Shipments went to all parts of the country but mostly to Chicago and other Middle Western cities. One carload was consigned to Portland, Maine and another to Birmingham, Alabama.

The average stumpage price received on national forests was 5.0 cents per tree, the same as in 1943, and on State lands 5.5 cents per tree, 0.1 cent less than in 1943.

Numerous decorative wreaths, sprays, garlands, decorated pine cones, and pine cone clusters are produced each year and the Flathead National Forest sold 5,600 pounds of branches in 1944 for such uses.

Further details concerning the origin of trees in western Montana are given in the attached table:

1/ Prepared by J. L. Timm, Division of Forest Products.

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Shipments of Christmas Trees from Western Montana in 1944

County	Railroad Shipments 1/								Truck 2/ shipments	All 3/ shipments
	Great Northern		Northern Pacific		C.M.St.P. & P.		Total			
	Carloads	Trees	Carloads	Trees	Carloads	Trees	Carloads	Trees	Trees	Trees
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Flathead	226	1,073,500	-	-	-	-	226	1,073,500	50,400	1,123,900
Granite	-	-	3	14,250	-	-	3	14,250	4,000	18,250
Lake	-	-	60	285,000	-	-	60	285,000	-	285,000
Lincoln	238	1,130,500	-	-	-	-	238	1,130,500	11,200	1,141,700
Mineral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,900	8,900
Missoula	-	-	5	23,750	9	42,750	14	66,500	12,000	78,500
Ravalli	-	-	6	28,500	-	-	6	28,500	9,000	37,500
Sanders	-	-	8	38,000	-	-	8	38,000	24,000	62,000
Total	464	2,204,000	82	389,500	9	42,750	555	2,636,250	119,500	2,755,750

1/ Origin of trees is as follows, by counties and shipping stations: Flathead County: Kalispell, 225 cars; Whitefish, 1 car. Granite County: Drummond, 3 cars. Lake County: Arlee, 9 cars; Polson, 45 cars (of which approximately 40 cars originated in Flathead County); Ronan, 6 cars. Lincoln County: Eureka, 189 cars; Fortine, 3 cars; Libby, 42 cars; Rexford, 4 cars. Missoula County: Missoula, 14 cars. Ravalli County: Darby, 6 cars. Sanders County: Plains, 8 cars.

2/ Truck shipments (119,500 trees) represent a compilation of estimates made by district rangers and supervisors on the Flathead, Kootenai, Lolo, Bitterroot, Cabinet and Deerlodge National Forests.

3/ Origin of the total production (2,755,750 trees) is approximately as follows: State of Montana forests, 106,135 trees (3.8 percent); national forests, 420,634 trees (15.3 percent); private lands, 2,228,981 trees (80.9 percent).

The 420,634 trees cut on national forests originated as follows: Bitterroot, 21,208 trees; Cabinet, 8,152 trees; Flathead, 84,513 trees; Kootenai, 306,761 trees. The average stumpage price received for these trees was 5.0 cents each. The average price received by the State of Montana for trees cut from State forests was 5.5 cents each.